AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): Device alerting to the expiration of tariffs for a franking system, comprising a random access memory (RAM) for recording postal data including:

a first table of postal tariffs relative to postal products and services and a processing unit for updating these postal tariffs,

wherein said RAM further comprises a second table of postal tariffs and said processing unit comprises means for comparing said postal tariffs of the first and second tables and for emitting to the operator of the franking system a message alerting to the expiration of tariffs when a date of application of said postal tariffs of said second table is identical to or earlier than a desired date of franking and when one of said compared postal tariffs has been changed, and

wherein said comparing means provides for a determination as to whether there is a change in postal tariffs being compared, and said device further comprises means for emitting the alert message to the operator upon a determination that there is a change in the postal tariffs, whereupon the operator decides whether to replace the postal tariffs of the first table with the postal tariffs of the second table.

2.   (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein said second table of postal tariffs is loaded in the franking system at a periodicity defined by the Postal Service.

3.   (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein said second table of postal tariffs is loaded in the franking system from a remote resetting centre.

4.   (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein said second table of postal tariffs is loaded in the franking system whenever credit is reloaded.

5.   (currently amended): Process for alerting to the expiration of tariffs for a franking system comprising a RAM for recording postal data and a processing unit for updating these postal data, said process comprising the following steps:

when a date of application of new postal data previously loaded in the franking system is identical to or earlier than a franking date desired by an operator of the franking system,

comparing these new postal data with current postal data present in the RAM to determine whether there is a change in postal data;, and

emitting a message to the operator of the franking system alerting to the expiration of tariffs when it has been determined that the postal data has changedif one of the compared postal data has been changed; and

a decision by the operator whether to replace the current postal data with the new postal data.

6.   (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein the new postal data are stored at the location of the current postal data when the operator has accepted the updating of these postal data.

7.   (Original) The process of Claim 6, wherein the current postal data are stored in a blank part of the RAM, to be kept for control purposes.

8.   (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein the emission of the message alerting to the expiration of tariffs is inhibited by the operator except for the first such message after the franking system has been put into operation.

9.   (Previously presented) The process of Claim 5, wherein the postal data comprise postal tariffs.

10.   (Previously presented) The process of Claim 5, wherein the postal data comprise postal products and services.

11.   (canceled).

12.   (canceled).